AUSBORNE
USER GROUP
NEWSLETTER

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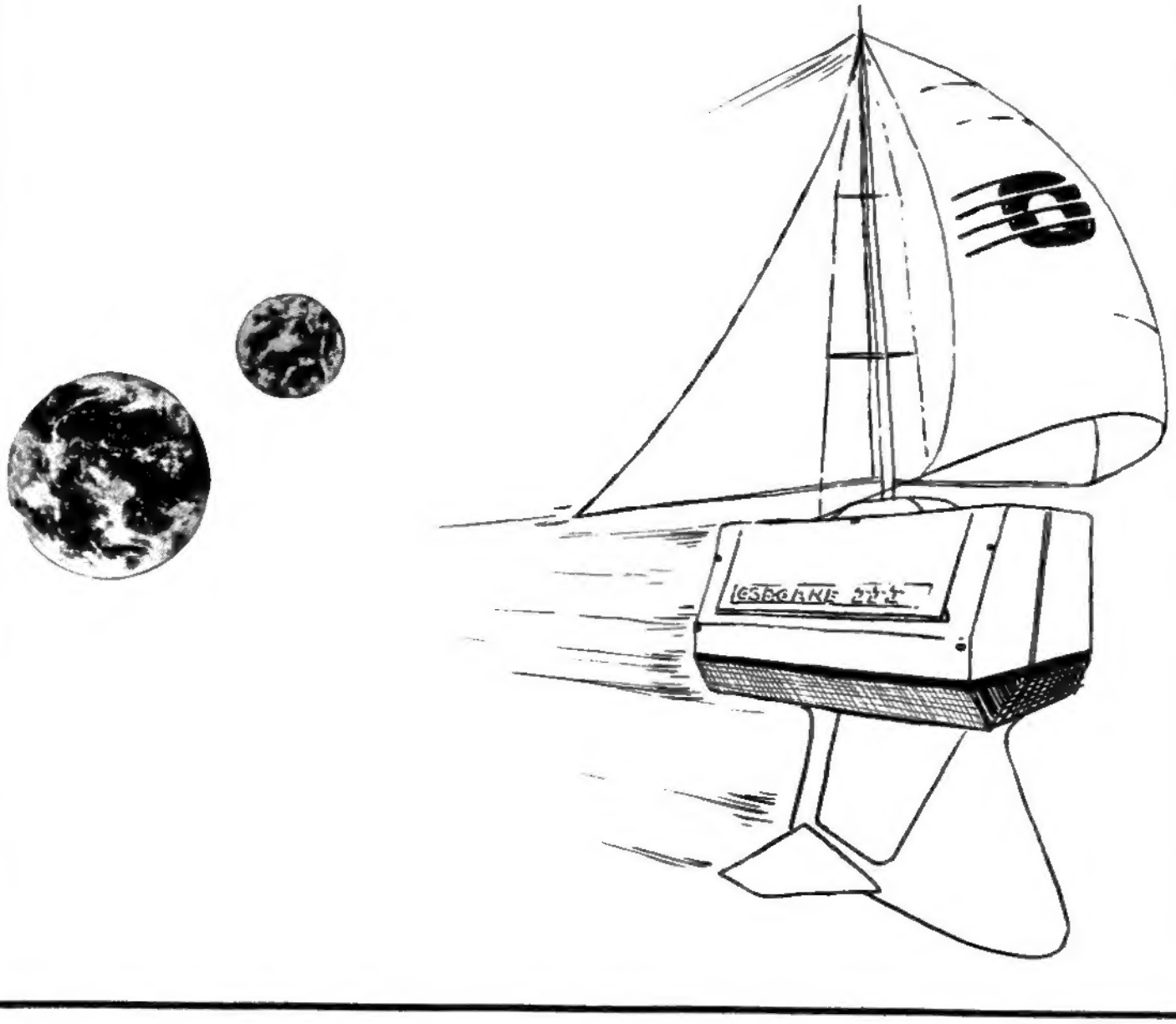

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EDITORIAL

As usual delay follows delay putting this newsletter due in September, well behind time. I'm not going to defend my self or the length of time taken to get this issue out, I will only point out the obvious.
Ausborne committee members are just like you with lives to live, work to go to, families to feed and bills to pay. Though the Osborne takes pride of place in our lives, it is not all there is to our lives.
In the past two months several committee members, including myself have had to find a new place of work while trying to keep our creditors from the door.
We work for you as a committee willingly, we complain little and work very hard indeed to make this the best and fastest growing user group in Australia.
What do we expect in return ?
Understanding, support, co-operation and above all your help.
This newsletter for example, need contributors. We need your stories, your discoveries, your programmes and bright ideas. Without these I have to create out of thin air a newsletter you might like. (You might not too)
Like anything in life "YOU get out what YOU put in".
To help you to support your newsletter I will place my Osborne 1 on line for anyone who who wishes to drop a file down the line. The phone number is (02) 560 5681 and will be available from 11 pm to 7am. The Osborne will answer the calls and wait for you to send your message. So dial, send your file and go.
I trust you will keep your time on the system short to allow others to send their files.

COMMITTEE NOTES

As most of you are at least now aware, the venue for the monthly meetings was changed, and used for the first time for our September meeting. Unfortunately I was unable to attend, but the phone calls I received the following day were all in favour of the venue, and the format of the evening.

****

On a different subject is the financial status of the O.C.C. The facts are:

1. O.C.C. Australia is operating in the black.
2. O.C.C. America is in the red.
3. O.C.C. Australia is selling up all stocks to help the parent company.
4. O.C.C. America has filed for protection from creditors, a necessary element for this application being a plan to trade out of any difficulties (ergo.. need cash, sell Australia up.)
5. Adam Osborne is no longer with O.C.C.

There are many rumours floating around about IBM/RANK etc. taking over, and Adam's departure being resignation/pushed out. I don't know the answers and quite frankly, it doesn't matter. What the Committee is concentrating on is to ensure the hardware support from some source. This will be clearer in the next two weeks, but it looks O.K.

By the time you receive this newsletter, you'll notice that there are some cheap 01's and executives floating around. My information as at the 8th October is $1200 for the 01, and $2000 for the Exec. (This includes tax...After the hard time I had justifying my purchase, I dare not tell my wife)

As far as the staff at O.C.C. are concerned, Susan Youngberry has already been offered, and accepted another position. Gunter looks like being sold with the spare parts, Peter Alford had his last day on the 7th, and is considering a couple of positions. Lois (the unidentified voice on the switch) and Linda I know nothing of. The Captain (Richard Graham) and his first mate (Linda Graham) are staying with the sinking ship. At least Dennis Connor kept his head°

****

Membership levels are increasing, with in excess of 360 Members from Darwin to Hobart, Perth to Bourke. The Bulletin Board is now up in the air (remember Osborne was going to lend the $8,000 worth of hardware), but again there is hope by either finding another sponsor, or negotiating with an existing system for access.

UPDATE **** UPDATE **** UPDATE **** UPDATE **** UPDATE **** UPDATE **** UPDATE **** UPDATE **** UPDATE **** UPDATE **** UPDATE **** UPDATE **** UPDATE **** UPDATE **** UPDATE ****

The Ausborne User Group is now the owner it an Osborne 1 and a Comm-Pac communications package. (the latter being donated by S.C.C. COMPUTING) Word on the software has it that it has been written and is just waiting for the PLINK manual to be able to compile it into it's working form. Still no word on the 10 meg hard disk though. It could come from Osborne, S.C.C., or Myer.
That's about it for this month execpt to tell you that Mr G.D Robertson from Lakemba is the winner of our first guessing compitition for the Send Data 300.

Ian Napier (President) & Milton McGlynn-Worthington (Editor)

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WHAT IS A DATA BASE ?

"Data base" is one of the most abused words in the computer dictionary. It takes on different meanings depending on who uses it. There are many packages that call themselves data bases. Many are useful but bear little resemblance to the clearly defined data base ideals.
The ability to keep all data in one central repository. The ability to access that data when required without needing to know how that data is stored. This gives rise to the most important features of data base systems - data independence. True data bases methods of storing and retrieving data is separate from the way data is used. You can introduce new data without affecting existing information. Another important feature is that of central control. All data is kept in one place allowing standards to be enforced, coding systems consistant, help data interchange and prevent unauthorised access.
Data base systems also help prevent and reduce duplication.

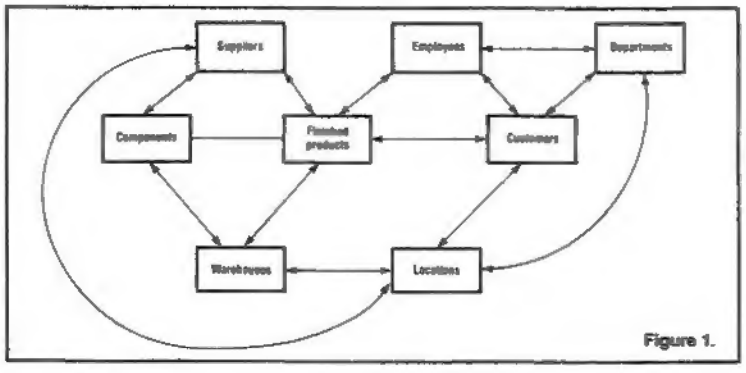

Figure 1.

Fig., 1
Simplified data base for a manufacturing company.

The figure shows another important fact about a true data base - RELATIONSHIPS.
Relationships are vital to data bases as is the data itself. The work of a data base is to find a way or expressing these relationships.
There are three basic types of data base systems that most use. Known as relational, hierarchial and network, though they sometimes overlap.

RELATIONAL DATA BASES

The simplest of the three, views a data base as a set of two dimensional tables. (See Fig., 2)

HIERARCHIAL DATA BASES

Data and relationships are represented as tree structures. (See Fig., 3) A feature of this structure is that each record must have exactly one superior record except the root record which has none. Any record may have any number of subordinate records which do not have to be of the same type.

NETWORK DATA BASES

More complex than the others. Records may have any number of superior and subordinates. Relationships are expressed by records called connectors and chains between the various entries.
Data base systems are primarily tools for programmers, a set of subroutines to get information from, add to and ammend existing data.

dBASE II - THE LANGUAGE

A simple structured language that manipulates two buffer areas (Primary & Secondary) which may have a separate file in each. Instructions bring selected records into a pair of windows. Records may be windowed separately. Two separate files may be paged through together as if joined by their physical record numbers.
Screen and printer are handled very well allowing complex forms and invoices to be set up easily.
Complicated for beginners to grasp but becomes infinitely flexible when mastered.
The language has a defined structure comprising VERB, SCOPE, NOUN and CONDITION.
The verb describes the action to be taken. Eg., LIST, USE, DISPLAY, DO, DELETE .....
Scope limits the range over which the verb is used. Eg., ALL, NEXT, NEXT 5 .....
Noun is what the verb acts upon and may be a file, field or variable.
The condition selects the nouns to be acted on.

VERB	SCOPE	NOUN	CONDITION
DELETE	ALL		FOR PAYMENT = 0
DISPLAY	NEXT 9	NAME	
LIST		NAME,CITY	FOR CITY="SYDNEY"

dBASE II COMMANDS

PROGRAMMING WITH dBASE II

When programming with dBASE II you are creating a means of inputing, editing and reporting on the information you have stored in file. To do this you must write several types of dBASE II programmes. These are indicated by the use of file extensions. Eg..

CMD	- Command	Files
DBF	- Data	Files
FMT	- Formatt	Files
FRM	- Report Form	Files
MEM	- Memory	Files
NDX	- Index	Files

dBASE II will not work without data to work on. To do this data files must be defined and stored. To do this we must create that store with the command CREATE. But first things first, from the "A" prompt ...

```
A> DBASE <CR>
ENTER DATE AS MM/DD/YY OR RETURN FOR NONE:
   12/01/83 <CR> or 12,1,83 <CR> or
   12 1 83  <CR> or <CR>
*** dBASE II Ver 2.?? ***
. <—— Is the dBASE II prompt
 .CREATE <CR>
ENTER FILENAME:
 Example <CR>
ENTER RECORD STRUCTURE AS FOLLOWS:
  FIELD NAME,TYPE,WIDTH.DECIMAL PLACES
  001
```

Now is the time to enter the file structure in the form shown above with name being the name of the field. Type being "C", "N" or "L".(Character,Number,Logical) Width the size of the field which can be up to 254 characters and decimal places.

```
001 SURNAME,C,20 <CR>
002 CHRISTIAN,C,15 <CR>
003 ADDRESS,C,30 <CR>
004 CITY,C,29 <CR>
005 STATE,C,3 <CR>
006 POSTCODE,C,4 <CR>
007 <CR>
```

dBASE II will then ask you if you wish to enter data

```
INPUT DATA NOW ?
```

Say "N" at this stage and dBASE II will send it's prompt. Type the following.

```
.USE EXAMPLE <CR>
```

Again dBASE II returns with the prompt. Enter the next command you will use frequently.

```
.APPEND <CR>
```

dBASE II this time returns with

```
RECORD 00001
SURNAME :
CHRISTIAN :
ADDRESS :
CITY :
STATE :
POSTCODE :
```

all in dim letters. Enter a name and address. When you enter the last data field and CR dBASE II will run off and store the data in memory returning with the next data entry screen.
After you have entered all the names and addresses you want on file, press CR in the first field of the next screen. This will exit you to the dBASE II prompt.
Next comes the tack of looking at the data you have stored, checking it for mistakes and noting those you wish to correct.
To do this you can use one of two commands LIST or DISPLAY.

```
. LIST <CR>
```

dBASE II will then list all the data you placed in the file.

```
0001 SMITH Fred 1 Smith St SYDNEY NSW 2000
0002 BROWN Jim  2 Brown Rd KEW    VIC 3101
0003 GREEN Sue  9 Green St LEURA  NSW 2781
0004 SMITH Ben  4 Red Ave  KULIN  WA  6365
```

or you could list only part of the file by selecting out those fields you wish to print.
Eg.,

```
 .LIST CHRISTIAN,SURNAME <CR>
0001 Fred SMITH
0002 Jim  BROWN
0003 Sue  GREEN
0004 Ben  SMITH
or
 . LIST CITY,STATE,CHRISTIAN,SURNAME
0001 SYDNEY NSW Fred SMITH
0002 KEW    VIC Jim  BROWN
0003 LEURA  NSW Sue  GREEN
0004 KULIN  WA  Ben  SMITH
```

If you want a copy and you have a printer, dBASE II works like Wordstar -CTRL- P will output the data to the printer. If you want to print the last thing you listed then the -CTRL- R will repeat the last instruction again like Wordstar. As a matter of fact, there are a lot of commands that dBASE II and Wordstar have in common -CTRL- V insert on
-CTRL- G delete letter
-CTRL- T delete word
to name just a few.

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	FACIT 4510	$1199	$1035
	CITOH 1550	$1499	$1195
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	Brother HR-1	$1799	$1199
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o o O o o

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Now you wish to print labels but you don't want to sort them into order by hand. dBASE II can do it for you with two more commands, INDEX or SORT. Index in most cases is faster so we will use it for this example. We want to sort in post code order to make it quick to post so we use the following command string.

```
.SORT ON POSTCODE TO POST <CR>
```

dBASE II then sorts your file in post code order and creates another file called POST from which dBASE II prints your list in post order.

```
.USE EXAMPLE INDEX POST <CR>
.LIST <CR>
0001 SMITH Fred 1 Smith St SYDNEY NSW 2000
0003 GREEN Sue  9 Green St LEURA  NSW 2781
0002 BROWN Jim  2 Brown Rd KEW    VIC 3101
0004 SMITH Ben  4 Red Ave  KULIN  WA  6365
```

Now that you have INDEXED your file you can do other things with it like find items.

```
.FIND 2000 <CR>
0001 SMITH Fred 1 Smith St SYDNEY NSW 2000
.LOCATE FOR POSTCODE = 2000
0001 SMITH Fred 1 Smith St SYDNEY NSW 2000
```

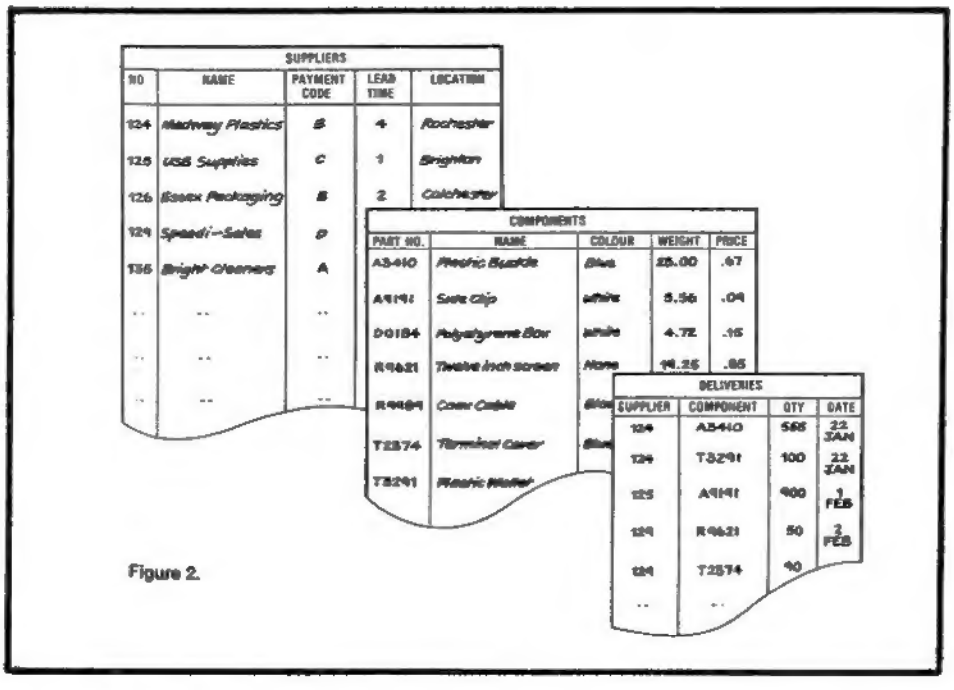
Another way of getting a print out is with the REPORT command.

```
.REPORT <CR>
ENTER REPORT FORM NAME:
 Maillst <CR>
ENTER OPTIONS.M=LEFT MARGIN, L=LINES/PAGE,
              W=PAGE WIDTH
 M=0,L=60,W=100 <CR>
PAGE HEADING ? (Y/N)
 Y <CR>
ENTER PAGE HEADING:
 Mailing list at 01/12/83 <CR>
DOUBLE SPACE REPORT ? (Y/N)
 N <CR>
ARE TOTALS REQUIRED ? (Y/N)
 N <CR>
SUBTOTALS REQUIRED ? (Y/N)
 N <CR>
COL   WIDTH,CONTENTS
001    20,SURNAME <CR>
ENTER HEADING:Surname <CR>
002    15,CHRISTIAN <CR>
ENTER HEADING: <CR>
003    30,ADDRESS <CR>
ENTER HEADING: Address <CR>
004    29,CITY <CR>
ENTER HEADING: <CR>
005    3,STATE <CR>
ENTER HEADING: <CR>
006    4,POSTCODE <CR>
ENTER HEADING: <CR>
007    <CR>
```

Now you enter details of those fields you wish to print out on your list. In this case we need all the fields to be printed. dBASE II then goes away and writes a file called MAILLIST.FRM and dumps to the screen the listing you require. Don't think it is a one off print though as I did when I first began using dBASE II. The file is still there and can be used again and again.

All this is very interesting I hear you say, but it's all very cumbersome. True since this is what is called DIRECT DRIVING of dBASE II. dBASE II is above all a language which allows you to get information out much quicker and in a form required.

So, with our example above we write the following programm to produce mailing labels.



SUPPLIERS

NO	NAME	PAYMENT CODE	LEAD TIME	LOCATION
124	Medway Plastics	B	4	Rochester
125	USB Supplies	C	1	Brighton
126	Essex Packaging	B	2	Colchester
129	Speedi-Sales	D		
136	Bright Cleaners	A		

COMPONENTS

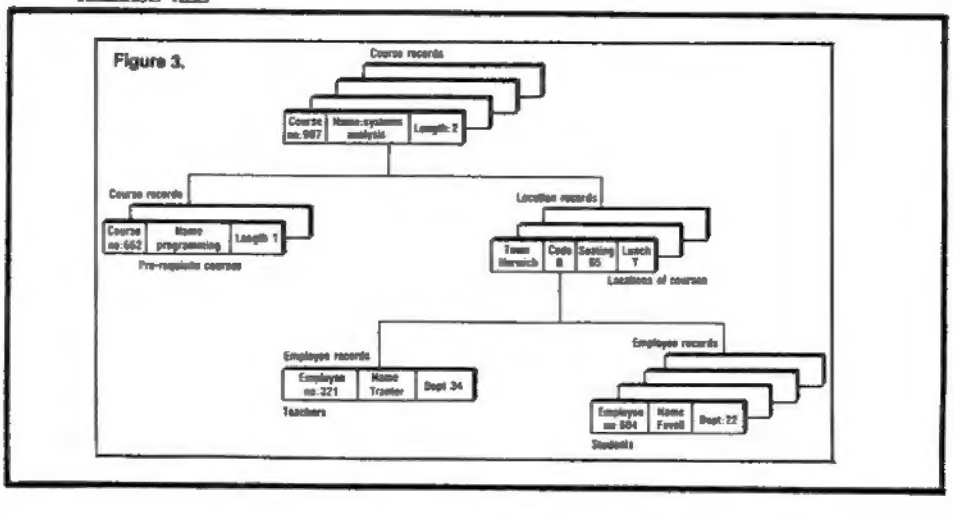
PART NO.	NAME	COLOUR	WEIGHT	PRICE
A3410	Plastic Bucket	Blue	25.00	.67
A4141	Suite Clip	white	5.56	.04
D0184	Polystyrene Box	white	4.72	.15
R4621	Twelve inch Screen	None	16.25	.85
R4484	Cover Cable	Blue		
T2374	Terminal Cover	Blue		
T3291	Plastic Mallet			

DELIVERIES

SUPPLIER	COMPONENT	QTY	DATE
124	A3410	568	22 JAN
124	T3291	100	22 JAN
125	A4141	400	1 FEB
124	R4621	50	2 FEB
124	T2374	90	

Figure 2.

```
* Index used is optional.
USE EXAMPLE INDEX POST
* Save zero to memory variable X.
STORE 0 TO X
* Continue while not the End Of File.
DO WHILE .NOT. EOF
* Save data to memory variables and take
* off spaces not used.
     STORE TRIM(CHRISTIAN) TO LINE1A
     STORE TRIM(SURNAME)   TO LINE1B
     STORE TRIM(ADDRESS)   TO LINE2A
     STORE TRIM(CITY)      TO LINE3A
     STORE TRIM(STATE)     TO LINE3B
     STORE TRIM(POSTCODE)  TO LINE3C
     STORE ( LINE1A + LINE1B + ',' )                          TO LAB1LIN1
     STORE ( LINE2A + ',' )                                   TO LAB1LIN2
     STORE ( LINE3A + ',' + LINE3B + '.' + LINE3C + '.' ) TO LAB1LIN3
*
* Print labels
* Add one to the line counter X.
     STORE X + 1 TO X
* At print position X,1 print label 1 line 1.
     @ X,1 SAY LAB1LIN1
     STORE X + 1 TO X
     @ X,1 SAY LAB1LIN2
     STORE X + 1 TO X
     @ X,1 SAY LAB1LIN3
     @ X,1
* Move on to next record.
     SKIP
* End run if End Of File.
ENDDO
* Set output to printer off.
SET PRINT OFF
* Clear all memory variables.
RELEASE ALL
```



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And thats all there is to it. If you wish to print two, three or even four labels across then it's not to hard to modify this programme to do just that.

Magnetic fields erase. Keep them far away.

OTHER DATA BASE SYSTEMS AROUND.

Name	Will work with
Analyst	- CP/M
Beta Base	- Apple II, III
BT-80	- CP/M
Cardbox	- CP/M
CBS	- CP/M
CM 2020	- CP/M
Combis	- Commodore 8000
Computerized File Card	- Atari
CONDOR I, II, III	- Most
DATA FACTORY V	- Most
Datafax	- Apple III
Dataflow	- CP/M
Datapen	- CP/M
DATA PERFECT	- Atari
DATASTAR	- Most
Data Store One System	- CP/M
DATA VIEW	- Most
dBASE II	- Most
dBase Report System	- Atari
DBMS II, III, IV	- Most
dDMASTER III	- Most
DMS	- Commodore 8000
Fileforce	- CP/M
File Manager 800	- Atari
FMT, FMT Dental	- Most
Frontrunner	- CP/M
HDBS	- CP/M
Informex Database	- Apple II
K-Base	- Victor 9000, - Sirius 1
Masterfile	- Spectrum
MST Data	- Dragon 32
PERFECT FILER	- Most
PERSONAL PEARL	- Most
PFS: File	- Apple III
Quest	- Apple II
Rabbit Base	- Vic 20
RESCUE	- Most
Retrieve	- Victor 9000, - Sirius 1
Selector IV	- CP/M
Silicon Office	- Commodore 8096
SUPERFILE	- Most
TIM I, II, III	- Most
Vic Data	- Vic 20
Vic File	- Vic 20
WHATSIT	- Most
ZX File	- ZX-81

dBASE HELPERS

dMANES	- Executive reference and mailing programme.
AUTOCODE	- Programme generator.
QUICKCODE	- Programme generator.
dUTIL	- Programmers utilities.
dBPlus	- Compresses, Sorts and transforms dBASE II files.
dGRAPH	- Generates Pie, Line and Pie-Bar charts.
dPROGRAMMER	- Programming generation aide
RPG	- Report Generator
dCREF	- Print cross referenced utility of memory variables
Abstat	- Statistics programme.
dBHELP	- On line help for dBASE II
PSF	- Report generator IBM PC, TI PC, Apple IIe & III

A WORDSTAR DATA BASE
A WORDSTAR WHAT ?

As you can see, your Osborne I is full of unexpected little tricks. This is a type of data base that allows you to produce "Electronic Note Cards". (We pinched it from "The Portable Companion" Aug/Sep 82. Here's a step by step rundown on how to do it.

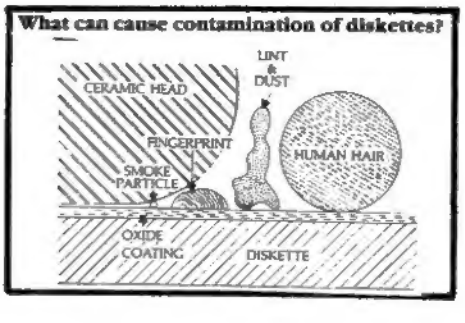
(1). Load Wordstar in drive A and your data disk in drive B.
(2). Log drive B.
(3). Select the Non document mode (N)

of Wordstar.
(4). Enter file name DATABASE.FMT.
(5). Enter the following dot commands.
.. This .RM 65 is unknown to me & my .. Wordstar book.

```
.RM 65
.OP
.CS
.DM * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
.DM *                                           *
.DM * You are creating  electronic data cards   *
.DM *                                           *
.DM *         DATA ENTRY INTO DATA BASE         *
.DM *           SET "CAPS LOCK" TO ON           *
.DM *           ----------------------          *
.DM *  Enter Symbol and data asked for below    *
.DM *                                           *
.DM * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
.DM
.DM----------------------------------------------*
.AV "Main Heading" , MAIN HEADING, 25
.DM-------------------*
.AV "Order"        , ORDER, 6
.DM-----------------------------------------------*
.AV "Summary"      , SUMMARY, 30
.DM-------------------------*
.AV "Key 1"        , KEY1, 25
.DM-------------------------*
.AV "Key 2"        , KEY2, 25
.DM                 !----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----*
.AV "Text 1"       , TEXT1, 60
.DM                 !----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----*
.AV "Text 2"       , TEXT1, 60
.DM                 !----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----*
.AV "Text 3"       , TEXT1, 60
.DM                 !----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----*
.AV "Text 4"       , TEXT1, 60
.DM                 !----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----*
.AV "Text 5"       , TEXT1, 60
.DM                 !----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----!----*
.AV "Citation"     , CITATION, 60
+&MAIN HEADING/O&          *&ORDER/O&
:&SUMMARY/O&
<&KEY1/O&    >&KEY2/O&
'&TEXT1/O&
'&TEXT2/O&
'&TEXT3/O&
'&TEXT4/O&
'&TEXT5/O&
**&CITATION/O&
.RP
.FI DATABASE.FMT
..End of DATABASE.FMT
```

LETTER FROM A USER

Dear Sir,
Having been a dBASEII convert for some months I'm hoping that the UG newsletter will bring forth regular contributions from other dBASEII users for the exchange of useful tips and information.
As I'm after some information myself (more of which later) I felt it would be only fair to adopt a `quid pro quo' approach so I'm contributing a modest offering which will probably be `yo hum' to many readers, nevertheless for what its worth, here it is.
As all dBASEII users know, after dBASE signs on it optionally asks for the date in the customary US format of MMDDYY. This date, if entered, is recorded in the header of any database file which is subsequently edited or added to. It is also available to the user by calling up DATE(). Although dBASE checks for obvious errors such as Feb 29 in a non-leapyear, it doesn't mind if the date entered is earlier than the previous access date or for that matter, light years ahead of the previous access date.
Now without wishing to knock the Yanks without whom we wouldn't have the Osborne I, nor without wishing to seem parochial I have to admit to an aversion to having to read or write the date in the abovementioned MMDDYY format. To my way of thinking, if one has to abreviate the written date at least let it be in the form DDMMYY preferably with easily recognisable separators such as DD/MM/YY. Further more with people other than myself having access to



Portables flying into troub

By Mark Harris

World report

TWO OUT of three microcomputers sold worldwide by 1987 will be portable, according to a market research report by Frost and Sullivan in New York. However, lower cost models will only be responsible for 20 per cent of the sales.

But people planning to use their portable computers while strapped in an airplane seat may be in for some disappointing news. Apparently, the radio frequency that most portable computers emit interferes with those used by the airlines. As one engineer of a major portable computer manufacturer put

placed by fancy computer displays.

Currently there are no Federal Aviation Authority restrictions against the use of portable computers and the decision to allow passengers to use them is largely in the hands of individual carriers.

But with competition on major business routes as fierce as it is, several

wide to 3.1 million units, and with revenues skyrocketing to $2.1 billion in 1987, up from $271 million in 1982.

In the under-$500 and 1-4K memory class, shipments will increase an average of 57 per cent, with sales at 2.5 million units by 1987.

Despite significant sales growth for the higher priced portables, such as from Grid Systems, Cavilan, Compaq, and Hyperiod, the biggest growth area will be among medium-priced systems such as from Osborne, Kaypro and others.

Prices will generally fall, following the trend of the microcomputer market. By 1987, the average price for an integrated portable system will be around $695. Tod

Osborne in the doldrums

But despite all the 'father of the portable computer' is still smiling and ready for new successes

Not yet dead from over-exposure to sunshine, and confident of not succumbing to a heart attack, a smiling Adam Osborne presents the product he hopes will revive his ailing company — the new Executive 1.

TWO years ago Adam Osborne almost single-handedly created the portable computer, market with the introduction of the Osborne 1. Since then some 120,000 of the machines have been sold, creating a $US100-plus million corporation. Today though the company that rose 'from rags to riches' is on a steep down-hill slide.

Kaypro, and a host of other start-up firms which have entered the market, often with superior portables, have caused Osborne's market share to drop from 60 per cent to just 30 per cent in less than a year. By the end of 1983, Kaypro is expected to tie Osborne's expected sales volume of 80,000 units.

Adam Osborne isn't trying to deny the problems his firm is facing. "This is a high-risk market. Look what happened to TI and Atari," he said.

Since the possibly premature announcement of the new Executive system, Osborne has been almost without income, and had to abandon plans to go public on Wa Street. Recently the company was so sho on cash, it told creditors it was delayi payments for at least a month. Osborne h also closed its New Jersey plant at the e pense of 100 jobs, and recently laid off 20 more workers at its Hayward headquarter The company has also reached the limits its bank credit and has announced that it looking for merger of some sort with a cor pany in the high tech field with, as vi president Dave Lorenzen put it, "de pockets".

One of the prime reasons for the declin ing interest in the Osborne 1 system is th it has fallen beyond the state of the art micro technology. Osborne has not tried match the larger monitor offered by Ka pro, has stayed out of the low-end of home market, and is not following Cavilan and other firms with innovative new technologies incorporated into portable systems.

"Our strategy all along," Mr Osborne said, "has been to provide the most computing power in the business for the lowest price."

Determined not to go down in history as a man who had just one good idea, Osborne began searching for new market hooks, but even seemingly simple ideas, such as upgrading the single-density disk drives to double density, proved the old business adage that 'anything that can go wrong, will!' To upgrade the drives, a new circuit board had to be added to the motherboard: a post supporting this board, however, tended to wobble. In increasing the screen capacity from 40 to 80 characters, it turned out the Osborne 1's chips would not support the upgrade.

frame compatability spread throughout the industry, and dealers and potential buyers alike, postponed purchasing plans in anticipation of the availability of the Executive.

However because of delays in getting volume production of the Executive, Osborne's sales dropped severely. Even though more than 12,000 Executives have been sold Osborne continued to lose huge amounts of money due to its large inventory of unsold Osborne 1s. To stimulate sales of the older machines, the company cut the price by an unprecedented 35 per cent. It even offered Osborne 1s to creditors instead of cash payment.

While the Executive 1 is selling adequately, some customers are reportedly waiting until they have seen the new Executive II. This time Osborne seems to be on top of the situation; it has promised Executive 1 buyers they will have the opportunity to become IBM-PC-compatible through the installation of a $UA600 16-bit upgrade board.

Both the upgraded Executive 1s and the Executive II systems which will become

gin and demands cash on delivery.

"That marketing approach has never been tried before. Kaypro adds a whole new dimension to the market. Either they are going to go bankrupt, or a year from now we'll have to take our hats off and consider following their approach," Osborne said.

But Osborne is not the type to worry himself to death over such things. During the evenings and weekends he is writing a new novel in the manner of George Orwell's "1984". "If I die young, it may be from a sunburn. A heart attack — no way!"

An Affiliate of the Australian Computer Society, Mr Patkin now owns an Osborne portable computer. He does not see the small screen as a drawback.

He notes that 35 to 55 characters per line is "reader-friendly", while most computers display an eye-straining 80-characters to the line, a throwback to when punchcards were the main input medium for computers.

Mr Patkin's views on ergonomics are based on personal experience, as well as extensive reading and studying of leading overseas experts and conversations with visiting ergonomics experts.

Michael Patkin, MB, BS (Melb), FRCS (Eng), FRCS (Ed), FRACS, Consultant Surgeon, is also one of two consultant editors of MIMS Hospital Equipment and Supplies.

NEWS Pacific Computer Weekly Oct 10-16, 1983

Osborne to get $600,000 injection

THREE of the Osborne Computer Corporation's banks have decided to pump $US600,000 into the ailing firm despite the fact that Osborne has applied for bankruptcy protection under Chapter 11 of the bankruptcy law in the US.

Osborne, which virtually created the portable computer market, will, it is believed, use the additional money to enable the remaining 75 or so employees to work out a merger of some sort and continue the development of the kit that will make the firm's new Executive computer compatible with the IBM PC.

Osborne's bankruptcy application papers show the company has more than $30 million in unsecured debts, mostly to suppliers. In all, the company has some 600 creditors, 20 of which are owed more than $160,000.

Some of the firm's largest creditors include: Alps ($1.7 million) for disk drives, Siemens ($1 million) for components, Dysan (1 million) for disks, and Testology $1.5 million for PC boards. The latter firm has filed a $4.5 million lawsuit against Osborne. That suit now will have to wait until after the bankruptcy has been settled.

my databases I consider it important not to have for example this day last month accidentally logged on instead of this day this month.
With this criteria in mind I set about writing a short command file to achieve my objective and to short circuit dBASEII's normal sign on routine by automatically loading the file from a cold boot via AUTOST.COM.
Use of this command file which I have christened simply DT.CMD also requires a dBASE memory file resident on the same diskette. This is refered to in the command file by the file name CONSTANTS (saved by dBASE as CONSTANT.MEM) and it is used to store the number of days since 1 January, 1981 and also today's date in the form DD/MM/YY. The number of days is necessary for checking on whether or not the date entered is earlier than (or if desired, later than) the previous access date. The retention of the date in its DD/MM/YY form may seem unecessary as it is stored by the command file in the system date register DATE() however I find it useful for the purpose of resettling DATE() when a temporary exit from dBASE via QUIT in the form for example QUIT TO

'Copy','Dbase Mainmenu' is necessary.
As you can see from the code set out below a date earlier than the last access date (stored in the CONSTANTS memory file as the variable DAYS) is rejected whilst a date five days or more later than the last access date is questioned. Both of these conditions may be altered or deleted altogether to suit the user's particular application. The last line of the file loads a system initialisation command file named `Startup'. For a stand alone application this line could be replaced with the dBASE command CANCEL. This would have the effect of closing the command file and returning the user to dBASE's interactive mode.
To establish the memory file so that your `accept date' command file will run properly, place the dBASEII system diskette in the `A' drive, load dBASE in the normal way, then after receiving the dot prompt type -

```
STORE '19/08/83' TO MDate
STORE 596 TO Days
SAVE TO Constants
QUIT
```

Patching the command file into AUTOST.COM whilst not essential puts the icing on the cake and is quite easy to do. First place your CP/M utilities disk in drive `A' and your dBASEII system disk in drive `B'. After booting the system and exiting `Help' to the Ac prompt, type DDT B:AUTOST.COM — you will then see displayed:

```
DDT VERSION 2.2
NEXT  PC
0A80  0100
-               DDT waiting for input
S016D<cr>       You type this instruction
                Change the contents of memory
                location
                 016D...
00              ...from 00h...
20<cr>          ...to 20h
016E            Next address
00              ...contains 00h...
44<cr>          ...change to 44h  ('D')
016F            Next address
00              ...contains 00h...
54<cr>          ...change to 54h  ('T')
0170            Next address
00              ...contains 00h but do not
                change it
 <cr>           ...no more changes
```

Now type ^C to leave DDT followed immediately by:

```
SAVE 10 B:AUTOST.COM
```

Next, using Wordstar in the non-document mode, key-in the dBASE command file as listed and save it on the dBASE system disk as DT.CMD.

```
* DT.CMD...J.Herbst  May,1983
* This command file  accepts today's date
* in the form DD/MM/YY and checks its
* validity...
SET TALK OFF
SET COLON OFF
SET BELL OFF
* Get date of  last access and number of
* days since 1 Jan, 1981 from memory
*  file....
RESTORE FROM Constants
ERASE
* Display name of programme (if you wish).
SET INTENSITY OFF
@ 1,4 SAY 'NAMEBASE I ... Client Register'
SET INTENSITY ON
* Display date of last access....
@ 9,11 SAY 'DATE OF LAST ACCESS'
SET INTENSITY OFF
@ 9,31 SAY '&MDate'
SET INTENSITY ON
* Now ask for today's date....
STORE '000031059090120151181212243 27
* Continue next line end of last
3304334';TO Days:YTD
STORE '312931303130313130313031' TO Days:
* Continue next line end of last
Month
STORE T TO DT
DO WHILE DT
@ 11,0
STORE '          ' TO Today
@ 11,12 SAY "ENTER TODAY'S DATE ";
GET Today PICTURE '99/99/99'
READ
STORE VAL($(Today,1,2)) TO D
STORE VAL($(Today,4,2)) TO M
STORE VAL($(Today,7,2)) TO Y
STORE F TO Leapyear
IF Y=INT(Y/4)*4
STORE T TO Leapyear
ENDIF

* Test for validity; re-enter if invalid.
IF M<1 .OR. M>12
LOOP
ELSE
IF D<1 .OR. D>VAL($(Days:Month,M*2-1,2));
* Continue next line end of last
* Continue next line end of last
LOOP
ENDIF day out of range
ENDIF month out of range
* Calculate number of days  since 1st Jan
* 1981 and  store to memory variable....
STORE INT((Y-1)*365.25)-29585;
* Continue next line end of last
+VAL($(Days:YTD,M*3-2,3))+D TO MDays
* Continue next line end of last
IF M>2 .AND. Leapyear
STORE MDays+1 TO MDays
ENDIF Leapyear
* Test to see whether date entered is
* earlier than * previous accesss date;
* re-enter if it is....
STORE 0 TO Pause
IF MDays<Days
SET INTENSITY OFF
@ 11,2 SAY 'Date cannot be earlier than
* Continue next line end of last
last ';+'access date !'+ CHR(7)
DO WHILE Pause <50
STORE Pause+1 TO Pause
ENDDO
SET INTENSITY ON
LOOP
ENDIF date earlier than last access date

* Test to see whether date entered is five
* or more days later than the last access
* date....
IF MDays>Days+5
SET INTENSITY OFF
@ 11,5 SAY 'Date is 5 days later than
* Continue next line end of last
last ';+'access date'+ CHR(7)
@ 13,14 SAY 'Is this O.K. ? (Y/N) '
SET INTENSITY ON
SET CONSOLE OFF
WAIT TO Reply
SET CONSOLE ON
IF !(Reply)<>'Y'
@ 13,0
LOOP
ENDIF Reply
ENDIF date >5 days later than last access
* Continue next line end of last
date
STORE F TO DT
ENDDO DT
* Set system DATE() and save variables to
* memory file....
SET DATE TO &Today
STORE '&Today' TO MDate
STORE MDays TO Days
RELEASE Days:YTD,Days:Month,DT,Today-
* Continue next line end of last
,D,M,Y,;Leapyear,MDays,Pause,Reply
SAVE TO Constants
SET TALK ON
SET COLON ON
SET BELL ON
RELEASE ALL
* Load initialisation command file if
* applicable, otherwise CANCEL
DO Startup
```

[EDITORS NOTE] Because of column constraints some lines have been broken and carried to the line below. These are indicated by the lines
* Continue next line end of last
When typeing the lines in just butt the line below the * Continue next line end of last to the end on the line above the
* Continue next line end of last

To try out your new creation press reset, place dBASE in the A' drive followed by CR and in a few moments — bingo routine.
Now for the information that I'd like to obtain ..... I have a DD Osborne I with BIOS 1.44 to which is normally attached an NDK4000 dot matrix parallel printer via the IEEE 488 port. If print instructions are sent down the line and the printer select switch is off, the system is hung up until the printer is selected. So what's unusual about that I hear you saying? Well nothing at all - except that it occasionally throws staff not thoroughly familiar with the computer.
In the interest of making the system as user friendly as possible I would like the computer to test the printer's condition to see if it is ready to receive data and if not, to permit a message to be displayed on the console until such time as the printer is selected.
Can someone please tell me how to go about achieving this?
Yours truly,
JOHN HERBST.

INSTRUCTIONS: Photostat or print out this sheet. Stick all or part to keyboard. Use highlight pens as necessary. Add your own meanings for pre-set keys. Cover with clear plastic or tape.

BLOCKS

HELP	^JV
Column mode on/off	^KN
Mark beginning	^KB
Mark end	^KK
Cursor to beginning	^QB
Cursor to end	^QK
Hide block (on/off)	^KH
Copy block	^KC
Insert block	^KV
Write block to file	^KW
File directory on/off	^KF
Read in a file	^KR

CURSOR CONTROLS

Beginning of file	^QR
End of file	^QC
Top of screen	^QE
Bottom of screen	^QX
Up a line	^E
Down a line	^X
Left end of line	^QS
Right end of line	^QD
Left word	^A
Right word	^F
Left character	^S
Right character	^D
Set/hide 0-9	^K0-9
To 0-9	^Q0-9
To B,K	^QB,K
To previous position	^QP
To starting point	^QW

DELETE

Right character	^G
Right word	^T
Right side of line	^QY
Left character	^H
Left side of line	^Q←
Line	^Y
Block	^KY
File	^KJ
String	^QF

DISK FULL
Delete (^kj) old files.
Use other disk drive.
Delete unaltered parts of existing file.
Move to end of file, delete file ^KJ.

DOCUMATE COMMANDS

Table of contents	...T1-4
Table of index	...x
See reference	...r
See Also reference	...s

DOTS COMMANDS : Horiz. layout

Char. width	.CW 12	12/120 in
	.CW 10	10/120 in
Page Offset	.PO 8	4/5 inch
Microjustify	.JU 1	0= off

DOT COMMANDS : Headers & Footers

Header	.HE Page #
Footer	.FO #
Header margin	.HM 2 2 lines
Footer margin	.FM 2 2 lines

DOT COMMANDS : other

Bi dir. print on	.BP 1
Ignore	.. or .ig

DOT COMMANDS : Pagination

Page break	.PA
Conditional pb	.CP
Page number	.PN
Number col	.PC
Omit page no.	.OP

DOT COMMANDS : Vertical Layout

Line Height	.LH 8	6 Lines/in
Page Length	.PL 66	11 inches
Margin, top	.MT 3	1/2 inch
Margin, bott	.MB 8	1 1/3 "
Sub/super roll	.SR 3	3/48 inch

FILES

List	^KF
Rename	^KE
Copy	^KO
Delete	^KJ
Write	^KW
Read	^KR

FIND

Find string	^QF
Find and replace	^QA
Same string	^L
Find/replace again	^L
4 times	4
Globally	G
Without approval	N
Backwards	B
Whole words only	W
Upper/lower case	U ignored

FORMATTING TOGGLES

Soft Hyphen Entry	^OE
Hyphen Help	^OH
Justification	^OJ
Word Wrap	^OW
Variable Tab	^OV
Display ^ Charact.	^OD
Display Page Break	^OP
Display Ruler Line	^OT

HELP

Set Help level	^JH
Help menu	^J
Paragraph reforming	^JB
Dot commands	^JD
Flags on right	^JF
Basic editing	^JI
Place markers	^JP
Margins & Tabs	^JM
Ruler Line	^JR
Status Line	^JS
Moving Text	^JV

INSERT

Insert on/off	^V
Insert Block	^Kv
Insert File	^Kr

MAILMERGE

Variable	&Name-1/o &
Data file	.df (change)
Read variables	.rv
Ask Variable	.av " " var,3
Mailmerge File	.FI

MARGINS

Set right margin	^OR
Set left margin	^OL
Release margin	^OX
Set to ruler line	^OF
Centre text	^OC

MISCELL. FUNCTIONS

Interrupt	^U
Change disk drive	^KL
Reformat paragraph	^B
Repeat command	^Q^Q

PRESET KEYS

0 ____
1 ____
2 ____
3 ____
4 ____
5 ____
6 ____
7 ____
8 ____
9 ____

PRINTING COMMANDS

Cease Print	^PC
Non break space	^PO
Overprint character	^PH
Overprint line	^P(r)
Phantom 1 Character	^PF
Phantom 2 Character	^PG
User 1	^PQ
User 2	^PW
User 3	^PE
User 4	^PR
Standard Pitch	^PN
Alternate Pitch	^PA
Page Feed	^PL

PRINTING EFFECTS TOGGLES

Boldface	^PB
Double strike	^PD
Underscore	^PS
Superscript	^PT
Subscript	^PV
Strikeover	^PX
Different ribbon	^PY

SAVE

Abandon	^KQ
done edit	^KD
Save, re-edit	^KS
Save, exit	^KX

SCROLL

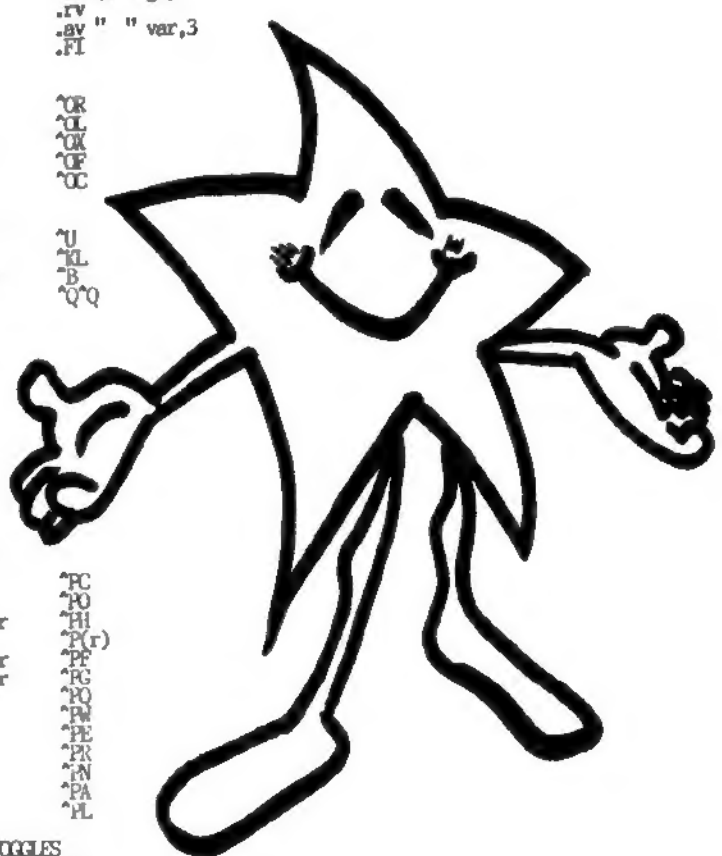
Beginning file	^QW
End file	^QZ
Up a screen	^R
Down a screen	^V
Up a line	^W
Down a line	^Z

Set variable	.sv var,..
Insert file	.fi file.txt change
Display message	.dm
Clear Screen	.cs message

TABS

Advance	^I
Clear	^ON
Set	^OI
Variable	^OV
Paragraph	^OG

...column width n (0)
...pn width n (3)
...prefix width n (0)
...margin width n (2)
...toc indent n (3)
...index indent n (2)



INDONESIAN FRUSTRATIONS

A recent business trip to Indonesia saw my Osborne making its first overseas trip since its delivery from the USA, and this time it did travel under the airline seat. This was in fact my second trip to Indonesia, the first having been about a month earlier when I'd undertaken a week long site tour of a petroleum liquids pipeline system with the view to submitting a tender in conjunction with a local company for the expansion of a communications system and the installation of a new pipeline supervisory control and data acquisition system.

The preparation of a tender document for what looked like a 6 million dollar job, together with its inherent calculations, was obviously an application for the Osborne utilizing Wordstar and Supercalc.

So much for setting the scene. Back in Australia the task of tender preparation *duely got under way. No real problems here as the Osborne made writing the tender document very easy. It is in fact the ideal way to prepare such documents as you can do each bit in whatever order takes your fancy, or as the relevant data becomes available, inserting and shifting blocks around at will and being able to print it out in final format to see how it looks.

Time to return to Indonesia, but can I take my trusty Osborne? A call to the local Consular representative indicated their would be no entry problems. On my earlier trip I had ascertained that the local electricity supply was 220 volt 50 Hertz. OCC advised that my brown case could easily be converted to 220 volt by flipping the little printed circuit card hidden inside the fuse holder to the appropriate setting.

That took care of the Osborne but what about my C.Itoh 8510 printer which I want to take as well. The local agent advised no go, but I had a recollection of having seen a sticker inside my printer that indicated that there was a 220 volt tapping on the transformer. A closer look showed this to be the case, however there was no provision made in the printer for easily changing the tapping, as the 220 volt wire had been insulated off by a piece of heat shrink tubing. The installation of a suitable terminal strip and re-termination of the transformer leads now made the conversion of my printer between 240 and 220 volts a simple screwdriver modification.

Away we go, printer suitably padded inside a suitcase and the Osborne under the seat in front of me. If your taking you Osborne on a long flight such as mine to Jakarta, hope for an empty seat beside you because having the Osborne under the seat in front severely restricts your leg room, other than that, there's no real problem in flying with your Osborne.

Now the Jakarta Customs officers obviously hadn't spoken to the Consular rep that I'd spoken to because they didn't want to let me take my Osborne into the country. They wanted to impound it until my departure[oo] Fortunately our local company representative was at the airport to meet me and after some rather lengthy discussions in which it was pointed out that I was "working" for one of their major government departments was I allowed enter with my Osborne into the country, but not before having my passport annotated so they could check that I took out with me when I departed. I strongly suggest to anyone wishing to take their Osborne to another country that they obtain written permission from that country's consulate, it still may not guarantee entry but it should certainly help. (They never saw my printer even though I had declared it - seems to be no difficulty there but next time around I wouldn't bank on it.)

Back to the keyboard and working hard to meet what seemed an impossible deadline, long hours make one somewhat careless and after checking the amount of disk space left for my Wordstar files one day I decided to delete all my .BAK files from the nine files that made up various sections of the bid document. Working in CP/M so that I could make use of the ERA function with its wild characters, I made the almost fatal mistake of ERAing all my files. You see I'd been using file names of the form ABCDEFnn.BID where nn was a section identifier within the bid. Well, I wanted to get rid of all my ABCDEFnn.BAK files so I intended using ABCDEF??.BAK but instead I keyed in, you guessed it, ABCDEF ??.* cr . Lost[oo] All that hard work, more than 25 pages of it and no way to recover it with the utilities I had with me. Even if I'd been at home I would have had to chase around for assistance, but what was I to do with only 7 days to tender submission date. Certainly there was no-one I knew in Jakarta who could help me, so a call to my Sydney office with precise instructions to contact the AUSBORNE USER GROUP Secretary for assistance and urgent dispatch of appropriate software, which I was sure was in the Software Library, was the obvious solution. AUG to the rescue. Within 48 hours a couple of disks containing recovery programs were on their way. Great I thought, I'll make the deadline after all.

Being a stranger to the ways of the far east I hadn't reckoned on the workings of the Indonesian Customs system. Three days had elapsed and I knew the disks were at Jakarta Airport, but do you think I could expedite their release, no way in the world About now an unexpected reprieve came along, something had to run in my favour, the closing date for the tender submission was extended. A sigh of relief, but still no sign of the disks, nor any real indication of when they would be released. My time in Jakarta was running out, and there was no need for me to stay the extra month allowed till bid submission so home to Australia I came, without the disks. About two weeks later I received a telex advising that it was going to cost US$125.00 to have the disk released by the Customs Department. This mind you, after probably having spent some 100.00 or more dollars in trying to arrange clearance through local Customs Agents. I advised our Jakarta rep that the Customs people should keep the disk and see what use they could make of them.

The sequel to all this is that I obtained another copy of the disk containing UNERA, a most useful CP/M Utility that will recover the Directory on a disk after it has been ERA'd, provided of course that you have not over-written the directory or the file. The files were successfully recovered and the tender finally submitted in its entirety.

The moral of this story is of course to be extra careful in using the ERA command with wild characters, and to make sure you have UNERA included on your CP/M Utilities disk.

THERE ARE DEALERS, AND THEN, THERE ARE DEALERS.

All of us bought our micros from an Osborne retailer somewhere. As some have found out, many who offer a low price may sometimes not be able to offer backup services. Or the Osborne may be one of the "minor" products that they sell, and you felt that you were part of their minority customers.

"OSMOSIS" is the authorized Osborne Dealer Newsletter. No longer will you have to put up with rushed or misinformed replies from your dealer - top of his priorities should be putting the latest Osborne information.

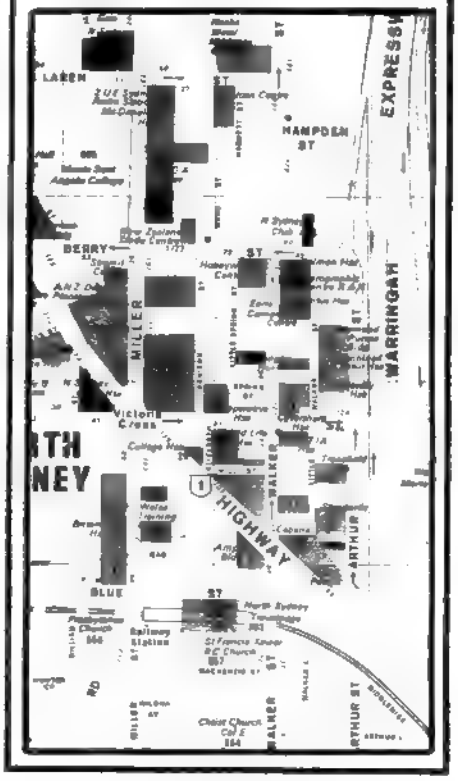
If he doesn't, change your dealer. There are probably one or two dealers in every large city who give the Osborne 1 serious attention, with backup service. Find out who they are. You can encourage their support for the Osborne by supporting them with your purchases. Do not buy on price alone - you can be missing out on that most expensive essential: backup service.

The
NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL
CHAMBERS

Cnr Miller & McLaren Sts

6.30 pm

	1983	
WEDENSDAY	16th	NOVEMBER
WEDENSDAY	14th	DECEMBER
	1984	
WEDENSDAY	18th	JANUARY



BEREAVEMENT NOTICE
A SAD LOSS

The association was saddened to learn of the death some time ago of one of its most valuable members : Someone Else....
Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill... Else has been with this association since its beginning where of the work. Whenever there was a job to do , a meeting to attend , funds to be raised , one name on everyone's lips "LET SOMEONE ELSE DO IT"..
It was common knowledge that someone else was amongst the largest contributors of his time to the association... Whenever there was a need for volunteers everyone just assumed that Someone Else would do it... Someone Else was a wonderful person , sometimes appearing superhuman but a person can only do so much... Were the truth known , everyone expected too much of Someone Else ... Now Someone Else's gone"". We wonder what we are going to do ... Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow , but who is going to do the things that Someone Else did ?. We hope you will decide to take the place of SOMEONE ELSE...

GTEK EPROM PROGRAMMER
Fills the gap

There are basically two types of EPROM programmers available on the Australian market. One the one side there are the fantastically complicated and expensive industrial machines that duplicate whatever intelligence you already have in your computer and give you more features than you ever wanted. At the other end of the scale there are some very simple hobby kits that often will only program one type and need a lot of specialized interfacing. Handy and reasonably versatile medium range machines just don't seem to be available.
What's more, Australian computer hardware dealers don't seem to want to know about EPROM programmers. They will talk heaps about all the lovely hardware and software they are ready to sell you but ask about an EPROM burner and all you'll get is a strained silence. One lady in a Computerland shop didn't even know what it was and got quite stroppy , which reminded me of Jerry Pournelle's confession that computershops scared him because the sales persons would treat him either with ignorance or with arrogance with three weeks' experience to separate the two.
In the U.S. the scene is rather brighter and there are several machines in the $US 400-800 available that are quite versatile and are easily interfaced with most computers. I chose the GTEK model 7128, manufactured by GTEK inc. of Wayeland, Mass. This model, which sells in the U.S. for $389.-, has been on the market long enough to be well out of the teething trouble stage, it is widely advertised and freely available. GTEK haven't got an Australian agent yet but they cheerfully, and VERY promptly, will supply you direct.
The GTEK model 7128 comes in a little black box of about 130x170mm with a 28 pin zero insert ion force EPROM socket and an indicator light on top. It runs off the normal 240V supply (you do have to put an Aussie plug on the lead) and is connected to the Osborne serial port via a standard RS-232 cable. It does have quite a bit of on-board intelligence in form of its own in-built micro and has a whole list of programming, reading and verification programs that you can call up from the Osborne's keyboard. It will even "ZAP" EEPROMS. The inbuilt intelligence also does away with the need for "personality modules" to select your EPROM type. The model 7128 presents you with a menu from which you can select some 24 different types of EPROM, EEPROM or single chip processor. Enter your selection from the keyboard and the machine automatically selects the right programming algorithm, pinout and voltages.
The simplest way to communicate with the programmer is to turn the Osborne into a dumb terminal. If you only want to program or read a few bytes or verify erasure this works fine. When you get to program or down-load whole EPROMs, however, it is nice to have some automatic procedures that work from and to your disk files. The manual contains a number of hints on how to prepare software for this and for an additional $30.- GTEK will sell you a disk that will do just this. The disk, like the programmer, ran without a hitch first up but I did find the software, although reliable, a bit lacking in versatility. Being "good guys", however, GTEK give you the programs in .ASM file format and they are quite well annotated. I found them an excellent base from which to make up my own slightly more sophisticated software. Some 60 EPROMS later all I can say is the GTEK model 7128 does what it says it will and seems precisely to fill a glaring gap in the Australian hardware market. Will the local dealers wake up?

F.J.Backer 15.8.1983

Precision surface.
No fingers please!

CHAIN LETTER

12th September 1983

Dear Member,
AUSBORNE USER GROUP LIBRARY LIST

This is a chain letter with a difference. Rather than being a method of bringing you and me great wealth based on returns from those you pass it on to, you derive your benefit by reading it, then passing it on to the next Member who's address label is attached so that they also may have the benefit of reading the details of what we have in the User Group Software Library. Please don't forget to pay the postage.
This method of circulating the Library Index has been chosen to reduce the Group's operating overheads which if we sent a copy of this Index to all Members would be prohibitive. So we ask you to read through the Index and note any disks that you require, write of to the Secretary with an order, enclosing the necessary cheque or money order at the rate of $6.00 per disk, then promptly pass the Index on. Feel free to photocopy the Index if you like but please be sure to pass it on.

Yours faithfully,
Trevor R. Bird
AUG Publications (Hard copy) Librarian

LIBRARY SOFTWARE REVIEW - LIBRARY SOFTWARE
DISK.DOC -FOG/GAM.001

First Osborne Group (FOG) Games Disk

This disk contains ADVENTURE, previously found on
-FOG.004, and PACMAN, from -FOG.022.

To run ADVENTURE, place ADVENTUR.COM & ADVENTUR.WRK in drive A. At the A prompt, type ADVENTUR.
When asked, enter HELP and INFO to get started.

To run PACMAN, first PIP PACMAN.* and SCREEN.CNT to a disk which has been SYS-GENed. Run SETUP on that disk and toggle AUTO HORIZONTAL SCROLL (function D) to OFF. Save the new setup, then place the disk in drive A. Press RESET and RETURN . At the A prompt, type PACMAN
When the game is running, press CTRL-G to toggle the bell on/off.

FOG/GAM.002

This disk contains CHESS, previously found on -FOG.018. The FORTRAN source code (CHESS.FOR) has been added from -CPMUG.041.
To run CHESS, place CHESS.COM in drive A.
At the A prompt, type CHESS
To run TTT, place TTT.COM in drive A.
At the A prompt, type TTT
Three-D Tic-Tac-Toe (TTT) came from -CPMUG.029.

August, 1982

CHESS.DOC DOCUMENTATION FOR CHESS.COM
(SOURCE CODE WRITTEN IN FORTRAN)
DECEMBER 25, 1979

CHESS.COM USES ALGEBRAIC NOTATION AND A BOARD DISPLAY SIMILAR TO MICROCHESS.

```
    A  B  C  D  E  F  G  H

8  BR ■■ BB BQ BK BB BN BR  8
7  BP BP BP BP BP BP BP BP  7
6  -- :: -- :: -- :: -- ::  6
5  :: -- :: -- :: -- :: --  5
4  -- :: -- :: -- :: -- ::  4
3  :: -- :: -- :: -- :: --  3
2  WP WP WP WP WP WP WP WP  2
1  WR WN WB WQ WK WB WN WR  1
    A  B  C  D  E  F  G  H
```

THERE ARE TWO OTHER COMMANDS WHICH DISPLAY THE BOARD AND ASK THE COMPUTER IF IT WILL ACCEPT A DRAW. THEY ARE "BOARD" AND "DRAW", RESPECTIVELY.
TO CASTLE KING-SIDE, TYPE IN O-O
TO CASTLE QUEEN-SIDE TYPE ■■ O-OO
IF YOU TRY O-O-O IT SAYS "ILLEGAL ATTEMPT TO CASTLE" ALWAYS USE CAPITAL LETTERS, FORTRAN-CHESS DOES NOT ACCEPT LOWER CASE.
I HAVE RUN SEVERAL GAMES COMPARING THE FORTRAN-CHESS (FC) PROGRAM AGAINST FIDELITY ELECTRONICS' CHESS CHALLENGER 7 (CC7) (C) 1978 FIDELITY ELECTRONICS. WITH FC AT LEVEL 0 (IT ONLY HAS 0 AND 1) AND CC7 AT LEVEL 1 (CC7 HAS ■ LEVELS OF PLAY) FC WINS. WITH FC AT LEVEL 0 AND CC7 AT LEVEL 2 CC7 WINS. FC'S RESPONSE TIME AT LEVEL ■ VARIES BUT IS NEVER MORE THAN 90 SECONDS. I HAVE NOT YET CLOCKED IT AT LEVEL 1, BUT IT HAS A SIGNIFICANTLY LONGER RESPONSE TIME (AT LEAST AS MUCH AS SEVERAL MINUTES -- ESTIMATION).
HAVE FUN

Greenlaw's SQUEEZER Programs

This review discusses a family of programs which allows the user to condensed (or squeeze) files or to reconstitute (unsqueeze) already condensed files. Squeezed files can be transmitted faster over data links and more of them can be crammed onto a diskette for archival storage or distribution . The latter is especially important in the case of a distribution diskette for a large program product.
Original versions of the programs discussed in this review (SQ.COM and USQ.COM) together with documentation files and assembly language (.ASM) files are contained on -FOG/UTL.003. Updated versions of some of the programs are contained on -FOG/UTL.004. These diskettes are both available from the club librarian.
The diskettes contains many source files which together form three executable programs :

SQ-15.COM Squeezes files and creates a new one with similar name but with a Q in the second letter of the file type.

USQ-15.COM Unsqueezes files created by SQ, creating an exact replica of the original under the original name.

FLS-11.COM Produces parameter lists for SQ-15 and USQ-15. Its main purpose is to expand wild card names, especially *.?Q?. The overall effect is to be able to issue a single command which will produce many squeezed or unsqueezed files from and to various diskettes.
The -11 and -15 contained in the program names refer to the Version numbers. The programs can be renamed SQ.COM, UNSQ.COM and FLS.COM respectively on your working disk.

Example:
To unsqueeze all squeezed .ASM files on drive A: and send the results to drive B: and also to unsqueeze all squeezed .TXT files on drive A: and send the results to drive B:

```
A FLS B: A:*.AQM  A:*.TQT  USQ
```

The above example simulates a "pipe" indicated by the " " by sending the "console" output of the FLS.COM program to a temporary file and then running the SQ.COM program with options which cause it to read its parameters from its "console" input, which is really redirected to come from the temporary file.
Similar coding can be used for squeezing files or single files can be squeezed or unsqueezed directly with SQ and UNSQ respectfully.
Much more documentation is supplied in both in readable files and in the front of the assembly source files.
In general, these programs accept simple parameters either on the command line or from the console (interactive mode). Using the redirection or piping of the console input and output streams built into these programs provides most of the flexibility.

Disk Cataloging

As one collects more and more software there comes a time when a disk cataloging system becomes necessary to keep track of what software one actually has and on what disk it resides. This software review describes a system for cataloging all of a users CP/M diskettes.

The master cataloging system consists of the following programs and files :

MAST.CAT	The catalog itself
CAT.COM	Used to list the catalog.
CAT2.COM	Also used to list the catalog
FMAP.COM	Used to create a "transaction file" called NAMES.SUB for catalog update.
UCAT.COM	The update program, merges NAMES.SUB into MAST.CAT .

The disk containing the catalog and cataloging programs must be placed in Drive A: and the disk to be logged into the catalog in Drive B:.
To log a disk into the catalog, the disk inserted in drive B: must be given a name of the form : -NAME.NNN
i.e.
-NAME.NNN minus sign name of file period file no.
The filename etc. is entered onto the disk by use of the "SAVE" command as follows:

```
A  SAVE 0 B:-NAME.NNN  CR
```

To read the files on the disk and to create a temporary NAMES.SUB file type :

```
A  FMAP B: F  CR
```

As soon as the CP/M A prompt is returned the catalog can then be updated by typing:

```
A  UCAT  CR
```

Thats all there is to it.
Use can be made here of the function keys to aid in the above. The following are recommended :

```
^1  SAVE 0 -
^2  FMAP B: F  CR
^3  UCAT  CR
```

The above simplifies the operation to the keying in of ^1, the disk name, a period, the disk number, a carriage return, ^2 and ^3 .
Two files are supplied to facilitate reading of the catalog :
CAT2.COM produces a one column listing of the catalog with the filename separated from the disk on which it resides by a *commer.
CAT.COM produces a four column tabulated listing of the catalog.
In both cases the file names are in alphabetical order. Hard copies of the listings can be obtained by toggling the ^P printer switch.
Adequate documentation is contained on the disks in the form of readable .DOC files and HELP files
The programs discussed in this review were written by Ward Christensen. They are contained on AUS BORNE 1 Users Group library diskettes -FOG/UTL.002 and -FOG/UTL.018, both available from the Librarian.

SCRAMBLE.COM

This review describes a program that encodes (scrambles) a CP/M a file making it unreadable unless it is decoded.

Version 2.1 of the original SCRAMBLE program is contained on -FOG.UTL.019 under the filename SCRM8L21.COM. Also contained on the disk is the assembly language listing and documentation in the file SCRAMBLE. MSG.

It would appear to be more convenient if the file SCRM8L21.COM was renamed SCRAMBLE.COM on your working disk.

The format of the command is :
A SCRAMBLE filename.typ password
where :
"filename.typ" is the file to be scrambled
and
"password" is an 8 character string.

The password string must be 8 characters long and suitable as a filename. To obtain a good "initial seed" for the scrambling process, no character may appear more than twice.
The requested file is scrambled, and rewritten in place under the same filename.typ.
To un-scramble the file, the IDENTICAL command is issued, i.e.

```
A SCRAMBLE filename.type password
```

This is because SCRAMBLE does an "exclusive-or" type modification to the file, and doing two identical exclusive-or's to the data results in the same data being returned.
The program was originally written by Ward Christensen but has undergone major updates by Keith Petersen and Bob Hageman.
The original author, Ward Christensen, considers the resulting scrambled file is quite secure. He comments that given a scrambled file without the password, (either not known or simply forgotten), He knows of no way to determine what the original file was. He adds however that, as he is not a "student of cryptology" he could not assume any responsibility for the "security" of files scrambled with SCRAMBLE.
A word of caution, if an attempt is made to unscramble a scrambled file, using the WRONG password, then the file is technically "double scrambled" and SCRAMBLE would then have to be executed TWICE, once with the original password, and once with the erroneously-used password. Because of the exclusive or-ing process, either password may be used either time.
The bottom line of the last paragraph is therefore that if someone else tries to unscramble one of your scrambled files without your knowledge then that file will be effectively lost.

Bending and folding may damage. Handle with care.

AUSSHOP

AUSBORNE USER GROUP
P.O. BOX C530
CLARENCE ST
SYDNEY 2000

PAPER & STICKEY LABELS

You won't beleive the prices on these items. I can't get em' that cheek wholesale. There's a full range or stickey labels from the small 57mm X 27 mm to the 127mm X 36 mm. Paper is available in Tractor Feed formatt in a number of popular sizes.

ACCOUSTIC COUPLERS

I do not know if we have any of the Sendata 300 left in stock but we are trying to get other models and brands. We will let you know at a later date how we get on.

T SHIRTS

Soon for the AUSSHOP a selection of light blue T Shirts with a dark blue Ausborne User Group Logo. The price is as yet unknown but you should be able to fine out at the next meeting.

KEYBOARD OVERLAYS

Now here yet but well on the way. You can order in advance if you wish (no money at this stage) the number and type you wish. You can choose from - WORDSTAR, SUPERCALC, M/C BASIC and dBASE II. They are being produced in S.A., for the user groups around Australia so best get your advanced order in fast. They should sell for under $ 10 each and will be available in packs of two, three or all four.

ANY THING ELSE YOU NEED

If there's anything else you might need that's not on our stock list just let us know and we will see what we can do for you. That's what we're here for, to help users get the best for their Osborne and their pocket.

YOUR MOVE

OPEN FILE OPEN FILE OPEN FILE OPEN FILE OPEN FILE OPEN FILE OPEN FILE OPEN FILE OPEN FILE

°°°°° HELP °°°°°

Daniel Moran has an Executive, which will not run YAMS or MODEM7 (library comms software). He wishes to communicate.

BUT HOW DOES HE DO IT °°°

[EDITORS NOTE] One way is to drop a line to S.C.C. COMPUTING at 93 York Street SYDNEY or call them on (02) 290 3344 and ask about their copy of MODEM7 designed to work on the executive.

A letter from Mr R. Staples reads in part-

As the proud owner of an Osborne 1, and someone relatively new to personal computing, I am now seeking kindred spirits who might be able to help me better enjoy my new toy.....
As you are all no doubt aware the Osborne 1 keyboard does not have keys for all ASCII character codes. I have found the control sequences which produce ~,{ and }, but there is one apparently useful key code which the keyboard seems incapable. Many of the application programs to which I have access are designed for other terminals and require the use of a DELETE or RUBOUT key (7FH) if they are to work properly without modification. So far I have been unable to find a key combination which will give this code to the program. Osborne have obviously modified Wordstar as supplied with the machine so that ^- serves the same purpose, but this appears to be a software patch in the Console Command Processor (CCP) for the Wordstar program or a modification of BIOS, (Basic Input/Output System) rather than hardware modifications.
I wonder if any member of the Ausborne User Group can tell me (EDITOR: and every one else) how I can generate a Delete code from the keyboard, or at least, how to make the software think it sees one ?
If I need to modify BIOS as suggested in the User guide; How do I go about it ?
Thank you for your assistance.
Yours faithfully,

Rodney Staples.

If you can help, drop the group a line and we will print it for one and all.

IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, SENT IT IN.

D O N ' T P H O N E

EVERYONE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR PROBLEMS SINCE WE ALL HAVE THEM, SOME HAVE SOLVED THEM WHILE OTHERS NEED THEM SOLVED.

FREE PLUG

ECONOMICAL SUPPLIES

Richard Hazel (Digital Technics of Aust) is offering some inexpensive hardware. As he has not paid for an add, he doesn't get a big plug, but he is offering Hi Res monitors for $199.00 incl tax.

For further information (including printers) phone Richard on (02) 4992772. (Gordon district)

BLESS AUSTRALIA, I SAY=

By Ny Pin Ho - as told to Tony Walker

In Vietnam things not O.K.
Think to self - "Must get away."
So jump on boat and come to Aussie.
"Ah, so° "I say, "What lovely possie."
Go quick smart to welfare fella -

He hand me money - I give bank teller.
Welfare say "Come here no more. we send you cheque right to your door."

Six months on dole - no longer poor,
Drive around in Commodore.
Write to friends in Vietnam,
Tell them, "Come here, quick as can."

Still on welfare (but work at job)
So get loan from finance mob.
Get pretty smart - know what to do.
Buy big house in Waterloo.

Friends write and tell me: "On the way"
"Can I find them place to stay?"
When they arrive with beds I fix.
In just four rooms - get twenty-six.

Soon am banking plenty rent.
(five in backyard - live in tent)
All are drawing social money -
Must think Fraser "bloody bunny."

With all my friends now living there,
next door neighbors start to swear.
Tell me he must move away -
I buy his house - with cash I pay.

Now everything is going good,
soon I own all neighborhood.
Open fish shop next to Coles.
Make big profit from spring rolls.

Get real fat from eating nice,
sure as hell, beats bloody rice.
Still on welfare - still get rents;
Think I buy Mercedes Benz.

Very happy - real good life.
Bring out girl and make her wife.
Take up hobby - call it breeding.
Baby bonus pay for feeding.

Kids need dentist - wife need pills,
we get for free - we got no bills.
White man good; he pay all year,
to keep the welfare running here.

We thank Australia - damn good place.
Too damn good for Aussie race.
So if you no like yellow man -
Plenty room in Vietnam.....

"LIFE WASN'T MEANT TO BE EASY."

The Lord said unto Noah: "where is the Ark I commanded thee to build?"
Noah said unto the Lord: "Verily I have three carpenters off sick,the gopher wood-supplier hath let me down - yer even though the gopher-wood hath been on order for nigh on twelve months. What can I do,O Lord?" And God saith unto Noah: "I want that Ark finished even after seven days and seven nights."
Noah said: "It will be so."
But it was not so,and the Lord said unto Noah,"seemeth to be the trouble this time?"
Noah said unto the Lord: My sub-contractor has gone out of business. The pitch which Thou commandest me to put on the outside and on the inside the ark hath not arrived, all the Ark drawings are in imperial measurements and materials are only available in metric sizes,the plumber has gone on strike. Shem,my son who helpeth me on the ark side of the business,hath formed a pop group with his brother Ham and Japeth, Lord I am undone." The Lord grew angry and said "And what about the animals,the male and female of every sort that I ordered to come unto thee to keep their seed alive on the face of the earth? Noah said "They have been delivered unto the wrong address but should arrive on Friday."
The Lord said "How about the unicorns, and the fowls of the air by sevens?"
Noah wrung his hands and wept saying, "Lord, unicorns are a discontinued line thou canst not get them for love nor money;also fowls of the air are sold only in metric ten packs,Lord,Lord,Thou knowest how it is....
The Lord in his wisdom said "Noah my son I knowest, Why else dost thou think I have caused a load to descend upon the earth?"

S.C.C. COMPUTING
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SYDNEY.NSW.2000.
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One price includes:

Standard Hardware:

- Z80A™ 4 MHz CPU with 128K RAM, bank switched.
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- Personal Pearl™ database system.
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- MBASIC™ programming language.

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What exactly is a database?